

**4 Corners Air Quality Task Force
Monitoring Group
August 9, 2006 – Meeting Notes
Participants:**

Erik Aaboe, New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau; Mary Lou Asbury, LWV / Cortez / Montezuma; Terry Hertel, New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau (Work Group Coordinator); Lea Hutchison; Matt Keefauver, Cortez City Council/LWV; Michael King, Southern Ute Air Quality; Eric Janes, Retired Federal Employee, USDI; Theodore Mueller, Ret. Professor Adams State University – Aztec; Sylvia Olivia, Mesa Verde National Park; Gordon Pierce, Air Pollution Control Division, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment; Larrie Rule, Montezuma County Commissioner, George San Miguel, Natural Resource Manager, Mesa Verde National Park; Judy Schuenemeyer, Cortez LWV; Bob Spillers, New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau (Note Taker); Wano Urbonas, Environmental Health Director, San Juan Basin Health Department

Agency Roles:

Erik Aaboe of NMED/AQB, Gordon Pierce of Air Pollution Control Division, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, and George San Miguel, Natural Resources Manager of Mesa Verde National Park gave a brief discussion on individual agency roles.

Agency roles were discussed with the issue of enforcement verses monitoring addressed. States receive their authority through the Clean Air Act and are limited to criteria pollutants. These are considered harmful to public health and welfare, with visibility issues limited to Class I areas. Under the Clean Air Act, monitoring requirements are generally limited to criteria pollutants. Colorado has the same requirements as New Mexico, with the exception of an air toxics study funded through EPA. Oversight of Class I areas have different requirements than state agencies. Their task is to protect the ecosystem. George San Miguel spoke briefly on current monitoring projects at Mesa Verde National Park which include;

- Wet deposition acid particulates,
- Mercury through wet deposition,
- Criteria pollutants,
- Particulates for visibility impairment,
- Passive ammonia for one year.

Mercury was a key topic. The discussions on mercury lead to the issue of ambient mercury monitoring and data that would be acquired. The current monitoring methods used by the Mercury Deposition Net do not work in the Southwest due to arid conditions. When the Clean Air Mercury Rule is implemented, the affected power plants will have to use continuous emission monitoring equipment which can lead to improved technologies for ambient mercury monitoring. When there is an availability of good valid data it can be presented to the air quality control commissions.

Questions:

What would it take to get mercury on the list?
Do we have the power to make sources clean up?
What type of monitoring is available?
What can be done with this data once it is acquired?
What questions are attempted to be answered thru mercury studies?

Gap Analysis:

Ted Mueller explained the monitoring site matrix spreadsheet that he has developed. . The specific area to be included in the gap analysis was discussed. It was noted that when choosing a monitor for a certain site, the data to be collected should be appropriate for the comparisons to other nearby sites. People's preferences for various types of mercury monitoring were addressed, and collocated monitors were considered to be the best option. An interest was expressed in having maps for specific pollutants. Pollution roses were recommended as a way to evaluate placement of new monitoring sites for the corresponding parameters. Portable ozone monitors were of interest.

Options for Mercury Study:

One option for a mercury study was the implementation of a collocated dry deposition monitor at Mesa Verde. Wano Urbonas mentioned an upcoming hair follicle sampling survey and anticipates some pertinent data may result. A cross-media study was suggested where advisories would be posted. An inter-bureau study that would include air quality and water quality. An improvement to the mercury source inventory was proposed and would include non-typical sources, these sources could include;

- Coal-fired trains
- Mines,
- Oil and gas production.

Work Plan:

Copies of the work plan were distributed for future comment.

Schedules:

Conference calls: 3rd Monday of August @ 2:00 – 3:30 PM MST.
Next monitoring group meeting: TBA
Next 4CAQTF face-to-face meeting: TBA.